

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. STRR/0004.C1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21-23, 25-32 and 35-40 without prejudice to refilling them in a later continuing application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A disposable ampoule opener comprising an elongated housing member having an inner cavity shaped to receive a portion of an ampoule, an open housing end, a closed housing end, sidewalls disposed between the open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface forming at least a portion of the inner cavity, wherein at least one inner rib circumscribes at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end, the inner rib having an inner diameter capable of encircling and clamping a neck portion of an ampoule; and a lid secured to the housing proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position.

Claims 21-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Original) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the elongated housing member includes two sections hingedly connected to one another.

Claims 25-32 (Cancelled).

33. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 20, wherein the ampoule has a neck portion and the elongated housing member includes two housing sections connected to one another, and wherein the at least one inner rib is located proximate the open housing end and assumes a ring-like configuration when the two housing sections are closed, with ~~has an~~ inner diameter sized to receive and clamp the neck portion of the ampoule.

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34. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener of claim 26, wherein the first and second elongated housing portions are hingedly connected to one another such that the first elongated housing portion is capable of being rotated toward the second housing portion to form the enclosed cavity with the open housing end and the closed housing end, the first elongated housing portion having a substantially concave first inner surface, the second elongated housing portion having a substantially concave second inner surface, the structure further including one or more ribs forming part of the first elongated housing portion or the second elongated housing portion wherein at least one of the ribs has an inner diameter capable of encircling and clamping a neck portion of an ampoule.

Claims 35-40 (Cancelled).